

Denver Public Schools – Board of Education
Second Read of policy proposal regarding enrollment procedures

Create a new Executive Limitation titled EL-19 – Enrollment

Denver Public Schools is committed to operating and sustaining high-quality, socioeconomically integrated schools in our communities. The Board of Education believes that high-quality, integrated schools offer the best educational outcomes for our children but also serve a vital function in promoting and sustaining vibrant neighborhoods.

As Denver continues to grow and housing prices increase, our diverse neighborhoods are struggling to balance the challenges of gentrification with their rich cultural histories. Many parts of Denver are undergoing major shifts in demographics, resulting in significant changes in housing patterns and a major reduction in many neighborhoods of school-aged children.

Historic institutional racism and discrimination have inhibited the academic and social progress of students of color and students that qualify for free or reduced lunch in Denver. The root causes of inequities in Denver Public Schools stem from many social, cultural, political, and economic factors beyond the district's control. However, the district must focus on strategies within its locus of control while advocating for strategies that may require additional stakeholders or resources.

Accordingly, the Superintendent shall not fail to:

1. Develop enrollment boundaries (neighborhood boundaries) and enrollment zones that account for shifting demographics and housing trends. Take reasonable steps toward the following:
 - 1.1. Analyze and adjust enrollment boundaries and enrollment zones every four years or less.
 - 1.2. Understand the uniqueness of neighborhoods and the impacts of declining enrollment by involving the community through regional meetings and conversations to help inform and co-create future recommendations for boundary adjustments.
 - 1.3. Avoid enrollment boundaries and enrollment zones that socioeconomically segregate schools, creating an imbalance of funding, resources, programs, electives, opportunities, and PTA/PTO fundraising.
 - 1.4. Maintain financially sustainable enrollment for elementary schools (kindergarten-5th grade) of approximately 300 students (two classes of 25 students per grade), 450 students (three classes of 25 students per grade), or 600 students (four classes of 25 students per grade). Enrollment shall not exceed 600 students for elementary schools.
 - 1.5. Avoid enrollment boundaries and enrollment zones that do not provide a safe and accessible route to walk or roll to school, or partner with the City of Denver to create safe and accessible routes if they do not exist.
 - 1.6. Minimize the walking and rolling distance within an enrollment boundary or enrollment zone to minimize the need for district-provided transportation due to bus-driver shortages.